

21st November 1949]

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“That might be, Sir, but what I have read now relates to an article written by some person in the *Harijan*.”

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—“ May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware that a number of hawkers go about the streets selling adulterated ghee, with more than 50 per cent of vanaspathi mixed in it, and if so, will the Government take steps to prevent its sale by such hawkers? ”

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—“ One of the steps proposed to be taken is to insist on the colouring of vanaspathi and vanaspathi products, and that is the suggestion of the Government of India, so that if there is any adulteration, it could easily be detected.”

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DISCUSSION ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1949-50.

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ Mr. President, Sir, we are very thankful to the Hon. Minister for Finance for the very lucid explanatory notes given to the various demands that have now been placed before the House. Sir, on an occasion like this, when this House can only discuss and has not the power to vote, you will show us some indulgence, Sir, if we deal not only with matters of policy, but also go into certain details.

“ Sir, let me first take the demand under Grant I—Land Revenue. The Hon. Minister for Finance was prevailed upon to provide additional staff for the Special Officer for Reduction of Rent in estates. Sir, I quite agree that when we enact some law or launch upon a new scheme, if we want it to be expedited, the officer in charge of the scheme, or the officer responsible for the implementation of the law, is entitled to ask for additional field staff. But I cannot understand the need for a greater staff in the office of the Special Officer, than the staff required for field work. You know, Sir, that it is the field staff that do all the work relating to rent reduction and all their work comes to the office of the Special Officer in a cooked form simply for being scrutinised and checked. I therefore suggest, Sir, that when such demands are made by the heads of departments, the necessity for the increase of staff at headquarters is scrutinised more carefully, because most of the work that is to be done is only by the field staff, and that scrutiny and checking alone are done by the staff at the headquarters office.

“ Then, Sir, I come to Settlements. Under the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948, the Government find it necessary that there should be a Director of Settlements and a number of Settlement Officers under him. I do not think, Sir, that when settlement operations were in force in the ryotwari areas in former years, we had a Director of Settlements in the office of the Board of Revenue. There was only a Member of the Board of Revenue who was called the Commissioner for Settlements, who looked after the work of settlements in the districts and there

[Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao] [21st November 1949]

used to be Settlement Parties with Settlement Officers and Assistant Settlement officers doing the work. It was the Settlement Commissioner who went round the districts and supervised the work of these Settlement parties. I mention this fact, Sir, because we have a separate Member of the Board of Revenue in charge of these estates abolition and I ask, could he not look after the settlement operations also? I should like to ask the Hon. Minister for Finance to examine the number of staff working in the headquarters office and the number working in the field and see whether it is necessary to have such a large staff at the headquarters to scrutinise the work of the field staff, and whether there are not too many officers to look after the whole work. Perhaps, if the work increases, they may have even an additional Settlement Commissioner. Sir, with my knowledge of settlement operations in the past, I feel, both the Member of the Board of Revenue as well as the Director of Settlements are superfluous. As it stands, the settlement operations have yet to begin. Only when the settlement operations have commenced, the necessity for inspection will arise and then only will come the scrutiny of their records, in the office of the Board of Revenue, after the records are received by them. Now, Sir, I do not know whether there is enough work for both the Director of Settlements as well as the Fourth Member of the Board of Revenue. I would therefore suggest to the Hon. Minister for Finance, who is now anxious to save as much as possible, to examine the need for these two officers and see whether the work could not be carried on with a single officer for the time being.

"Then Sir, let me come to the demand under Forests. There is a provision for the creation of a special forest division for looking after the casuarina plantations. The Hon. Minister for Law knows, when he was in charge of Forests, that I took strong objection for the appointment of a Forest Officer to look after our Hagari plantations. A senior Forest Officer who is now the Conservator of Forests was in charge of the plantations along the river Hagari. That is a work which can be attended to by a Range Officer with a number of guards assisting him. If for every little extension of forest area in any place, you go on creating special appointments, then Sir, I ask, what is the work that the normal Forest officers have to do? If they have more work to do, then divide the district into two and have two District Forest Officers for that area. (The Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi : It would be more costly.) I should like to ask the Hon. Minister in charge of Forests to consider this aspect of the question and if he feels that this division is necessary, then by all means appoint them.

"Then Sir, under the Chief Electrical Inspector, there is an independent Government Auditor, in lieu of the existing company auditors for auditing the accounts of the licensees of electric companies. How can this auditor take away the functions, which the company auditors have to perform under the Indian Companies Act? The companies have their accounts audited by their own auditors, and if the Chief Electric Inspector is not prepared to accept the accounts audited under the Indian Companies Act by certified auditors, he can perhaps have them scrutinised in his office."

21st November 1949] [Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao]

" Why should one independent Government auditor be appointed? He can never take the place of company auditors. Under the Indian Companies Act every company is bound to appoint its auditors. I do not know whether there is something wrong in the wording 'in lieu of the existing company auditors'.

" I now come to the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, 1858. Sir, we all know that kudimaramath has been a failure. Why should the levy of a cess on the ayacut benefited by the kudimaramath liability be postponed till 1951-52? Is it because the Irrigation Bill is not ready? Could not those few provisions which affect this kudimaramath liability be brought forward in a Bill immediately so that the State may be saved the expenses? Under kudimaramath, I believe every ryot is bound to give some labour or levy instead. If he is not able to give, you can collect the amount from him. I wish it is not postponed till 1951-52, but taken up immediately so that this kudimaramath liability may be fixed on the ayacutdars.

" Sir, I have already referred to the Board of Revenue, and the appointment of a Member for work in connexion with the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act. I have already pointed out to Government how the two appointments, in my opinion, are superfluous.

" I now come to the question of grant of lands to political sufferers. It arises from the fact that Government had to employ extra staff in order to dispose of the applications pending in the districts. I am one of those who is not against anybody deserving of help, whether he is a political sufferer or ex-serviceman, or the I.N.A. man from getting it. If any one wants work and is willing to produce, he should be assisted. But when an attempt is made to take away lands which have been under cultivation by ryots (during the last three or four years under the Grow More Food campaign) who have put their money and labour into those lands, just about the time when they are to reap the benefits of their labours, I am constrained to say it is not fair. These lands are sought to be taken away mercilessly without compensation, for giving to those who are political sufferers. Even this I do not mind if these political sufferers go and settle down, and cultivate these lands and are willing to become cultivators. Cases have come to my notice which I have brought to the notice of the Government that they lease these lands to others. Some of them have not even entered into the lands given to them, while those who were cultivating them before have already been ousted by the Collector. I ask, Sir, is it fair? The Government Order—to which the Hon. President referred, and a copy of which I have with me—says that they must cultivate the lands within a period of three years. Let us remember the period fixed for self-sufficiency is 1951. From 1949 you allow the political sufferers, who get lands, time to cultivate the lands before 1952. Till then those lands may lie fallow. You cannot take them back, because you have assigned them to those people. Is this helping the Grow More Food campaign? I do not know how the Hon. Minister for Food and the Hon. Minister for Agriculture agreed to such a condition being inserted in the Government Order. If the people are willing to enter on these lands and cultivate them

[Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao] [21st November 1949]

immediately, by all means give them those lands. But you give them time till 1952. This means that you can think of resuming the lands only after 1952, if they do not cultivate the lands before then. All that the Government are doing is against the Grow More Food campaign, and I was tempted to write in a letter to Government that they are encouraging Grow Less Food campaign. This is not the time to give effect to our political opinions and to show our favouritism in political matters. It is time we grow more food. Does this system assist the Government in growing more food? I maintain and I am prepared to prove, and I have written a lot of letters to the Hon. Premier and the Hon. the Revenue Minister that this system of taking away the lands from those who are now cultivating them and assigning them in favour of the political sufferers, will lead to decrease in cultivation. Our friends are not interested so much in cultivation. Moreover they must have sufficient money. Most of the political sufferers are poor. What is the security on which the Government can give them loans? There are so many difficulties in the way of cultivating lands. Anybody who owns lands will know the difficulties. In spite of all this, the Government wish to pursue their own policy. I am assured that they see no reason to change their policy. I wish them God-speed, but the Province is going to suffer on account of their policy.

"I now come to another important matter relating to the Madras Estates (Abolition and Conversion into Ryotwari) Act, 1948. I find that the Government have sanctioned the payment of commission to the headman, karnams and talayaris engaged on the collection work at 2 per cent, 1 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively, of the actual collections. I do not know the revenue setup in the zamindari areas. But I believe that in spite of the estate being styled as zamindari, there were karnams, headman and talayaris. It may be that they were not attending to collection of rent on behalf of the zamindar. Why should this 2 per cent, 1 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively, of the actual collections be paid to them? Is it because the Government find the ordinary process of collection, as in ryotwari areas, not suitable to the zamindari areas? Is it because that system, sooner or later, must be introduced in zamindari areas? It looks as though Government are becoming a trading concern. They want to give commission to those who collect more. The sum provided for payment of commission is a large one, i.e., Rs. 21.26 lakhs per annum."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"Is the hon. Member still on No. 1?"

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"I came back, Sir, because this subject occurs in so many places. I am very pleased to note that Government have changed their policy regarding grants for building and equipment of colleges. May I know what happened to the suggestion we have made time and again in this House that many of the institutions, however much they may try their best, in view of the high cost of building materials, may not be able to find the balance of amounts required to put up suitable buildings to house their colleges? The Government grant shall not exceed Rs. 75,000 in the case of first grade colleges and Rs. 50,000 in the

21st November 1949] [Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao]

case of second grade colleges. Some of us suggested more than once that the balance to the extent the managements require might be given in the shape of loans to assist the management to bring the buildings into existence. If it were ordinary times when the cost of buildings was low, perhaps these managements would have managed with this Rs. 75,000. The maximum grant is Rupees 75,000, and in most cases the cost of building is much more. Unless somebody like the authorities of the Loyola college manage to go to far off Delhi and have the grant transferred to Post-war Development Schemes and secure half grants, it will not be possible to secure more help. This procedure relating to Loyola college was brought to our notice last time in this House when the hon. Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiyar was in charge. I would like the Government to consider this point. Otherwise most of the institutions will not be able to avail of the grants given, and even if they avail of them they will not be able to put up decent buildings to house their colleges, I do not know whether Rs. 10,000 for equipment will be enough in these days. In all these matters, as far as possible, these institutions should be assisted, revising the grant-in-aid code, if necessary, in order that they may provide all the facilities necessary for the development of collegiate education. I plead that similar concession should be shown to high schools as well.

“ I am very pleased to see that the Government have after all seriously taken up the question of anti-malarial operations in certain villages of the Karkal taluk and in the Kurnool district. I wish that the basis on which the grants are given is altered. I have pleaded more than once in this House that the same rule cannot be applied to all districts. There are poor district boards as well as affluent district boards. If the same rule is applied to all district boards, the few thousands of rupees they are able to get from taxes and cesses will be absorbed by these anti-malarial operations. I would like the Government to consider each case on its merits and not throw out any proposal simply because the district board concerned is not able to bear the expenditure which is assigned to it.

“ I now come to Agriculture, Sir. In item (iii) (a) it is stated—

‘ With a view to maintain purity of seed and running seed farms in ryots’ land, a special staff of five Seed Development Officers, 38 Assistants and other ministerial staff has been sanctioned in September 1949. The ultimate cost of the scheme is Rs. 1,55,400.’

“ In paragraph (b) it is stated—

‘ A staff of one hundred additional Agricultural Demonstrators has been sanctioned. The ultimate cost of the scheme per year is Rs. 3,02,700.’

May I ask, Sir, why these Special Seed Development Officers are necessary? We are increasing the number of Demonstrators. Can they not attend to this seed development business in the course of their normal duties? Are their normal duties so onerous as to leave no time to attend to this seed development work, which is important and which must form part of their normal work? Why these Seed Development Officers are necessary, and that too five officers? Perhaps their jurisdiction extends to a number of districts, and the travelling allowance involved is bound to grow. It will not stop with Rs. 1,55,400. I would like the Hon. Minister for Agriculture

[Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao] [21st November 1949]

as also the Minister for Finance to examine whether the normal agricultural staff cannot attend to this work, and why they should not attend to it.

12
noon. "Then I come to the portion relating to tractors, pumps, pipes, Pluto pipe lines and so on. From the answers which the Hon. Minister for Agriculture gave me earlier to-day, it looks as though this Government will be required to recast their plan in regard to tractors, pipes, etc. It is said—

'With a view to giving facilities to the agriculturists for securing electric motors starters, switches and other articles like pipes, sanction for the opening of a Central Agricultural Engineering Stores and Supply Centre was accorded in May 1949. The net cost of the scheme during 1949-50 comes to Rs. 22 66,000.'

I hope some of the cost would be got back by the sale of the articles. I think the Hon. Minister for Public Works knows that before an electric motor is purchased, various technical details must be available. If we go to Marshall & Co. and ask for an electric motor and pump, they ask us to fill up a form in which so many particulars have to be furnished. How can a central stores located in Coimbatore know the requirements of a ryot in the far-off Tirunelveli district? Only when he applies, the stores can purchase on his behalf. To purchase and keep things in the stores without knowing the actual requirements of the ryot is nothing but bad business."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"I do not know what the hon. Member means. The Government know the voltage of the current supplied. It is only the horse-power of the motor that differs."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"There are certain particulars which we have to supply. I do agree that the Government should assist the ryot to purchase his agricultural requirements. To purchase and stock them in a central stores without knowing the actual requirements is bad business."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"That is only to do away with the delay involved in the ryot applying and then purchasing."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"The Government can act as a liaison between the ryot and the seller."

MR. PRESIDENT :—"That will take a lot of time."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"I do not think it will take a lot of time. That is my view."

"The Government are going to have two tractor workshops, one at Bapatla and the other at Coimbatore. If a tractor goes out of order, it will have to be brought all the way to the workshop. There must be mobile workshops to go round and repair the tractors. I think it is not worth while spending a vast sum and maintaining two workshops in central places to attend to the repair and maintenance of tractors and other agricultural machinery. I have not heard of Pluto pipe lines and I do not know what they are. I am saying this not because I am against the ryot being assisted in all possible

21st November 1949] [Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao]

ways in getting what he needs for increasing food production, but because I am not sure whether these government agencies will really assist him in securing his needs quickly.

" The Government have sanctioned the construction at Coimbatore of office buildings for the staff employed in connexion with the scheme for the breeding of Long Staple American cotton as a winter crop in the central districts and Sea Island cotton in the West Coast of this Province. The scheme also includes construction of seed-farm stores, implement shed, cattle-shed, hot-culture shed, etc. I think research schemes are tried in the fields in localities where cotton growth is encouraged. I do not know why a place like Coimbatore is chosen for the purpose.

" Speaking on co-operation, may I request the Hon. Minister for Finance to come to an early decision on the question whether the audit of societies should be divorced from administration or continue to form part of the administration. The question has been pending for a long time and no decision has been arrived at. I am very glad that all the staff required for the intensive supervision and audit of societies has been provided.

" The Government have decided to send some grama sevaks and Firka Development Officers for training in village industries in the method of Nai Talim at Wardha. I understand that recently the Government of India have brought down some Japanese technicians for giving training in cottage industries. I do not know whether our Government have taken advantage of this and have arranged to send some technicians to learn cottage industries under the Japanese technicians.

" There is provision for the purchase of what is known as 'Silver Hills' in Kozhikode for the purpose of locating some offices of the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools. It is not clear why the acquisition of buildings in Kozhikode was considered necessary when the Chief Inspector of Certified Schools has no office there. I would like to know what departments are to be located, whether it is proposed to have more certified schools there and how the 'Silver Hills' is going to be used.

" The Government have provided Rs. 81,07,500 for the purchase of 250 road-rollers by the Highways Department. May I know whether there were no road-rollers when the roads were under the local boards?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" They were all taken over by the Military Department."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I presume that the Military Department have not returned them. Then, have they given compensation?"

" Whether these road-rollers come from the dollar area or sterling area is a matter for the Hon. Finance Minister to consider.

[Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao] [21st November 1949]

" Sometimes differential treatment is accorded in giving grants for water supply schemes. Mangalore Municipal Council is given half-grant and the other half is treated as loan. But the Palayamkottai water-supply scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 28.18 lakhs and the Municipal Council will be able to find a sum of Rs. 7.5 lakhs inclusive of a loan of Rs. 4.5 lakhs from Government. The balance of Rs. 20.68 lakhs has to be given as a grant by Government. I would like to know whether the Hon. Finance Minister has satisfied himself that this preferential treatment is absolutely necessary and whether the finances of the Palamcottah Municipality are better or worse off than those of the Mangalore Municipality."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" The hon. Member himself pleaded"

(Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao was still standing.)

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Whenever any Hon. Minister or member wants to intervene, the hon. Member should give him an opportunity to say what he wants to say and either yield or not yield. If he yields, let him allow the hon. Minister to finish his speech."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I am sorry. Generally I do that.

" I know I pleaded. But the disparity is so great that I ask the Hon. Finance Minister, who is the ultimate authority in giving this concession, whether he is satisfied that the finances of Palamcottah Municipal Council are really so bad as to deserve this concession. If the municipal finances are bad, I have no objection to the Government giving the help.

" There are so many other points on which one would like to talk for hours. I think I have already tired your patience though my patients is not tired. I noted down only those points on which I wanted to speak."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member knows full well that my patience is inexhaustible. But I want to save the patience of the House. Let the hon. Member finish in five minutes."

* SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" It is seen from the items coming for supplementary grants that there has been considerable revision of estimates due to increase in the cost of construction and the goods purchased. Take the polytechnics. Each polytechnic was estimated to cost Rs. 7 lakhs but now it costs Rs. 16 lakhs. I realise how difficult it is for the Hon. Finance Minister to approve or reject the supplementary estimates when they come up before him. Though all these schemes have been adopted in the past, I would like him to re-examine them—at least those schemes which have not yet been given effect to—put off such schemes as are not absolutely necessary for some time and

21st November 1949] [Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao]

take up only those schemes that are necessary to promote the prosperity of the common man and the villagers, so that the finances of this Province may not be put to considerable strain."

* Mrs. M. HENSMAN :—“ Mr. President, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak though just at the moment I am not quite ready to make the most of my opportunity. However, I wish to make a few observations, Mr. President, partly after hearing the hon. Member who just spoke before me and partly after a perusal of the supplementary budget. I do not intend to embark on a long speech, or any detailed remarks about any one subject. 12-15 p.m.

“ I would particularly like to speak about the purchase, that is money set aside for the purchase, of the 27.55 acres of land in the Wynaad District for the purpose of a certified school. The hon. Member who spoke before me seems to feel that there are ambiguities in allotting that land. I take it from a perusal of the supplementary budget that it is intended to improve the certified schools of the Presidency for children, and to acknowledge that the juvenile delinquents of this Province have been very badly treated up to now. They have been scattered in different parts of this Province. The Government have not been able to implement their progress—mental, moral or physical. The Hon. Law Minister has proclaimed that the Government have now decided to consolidate the Certified School work in this wonderful plan. This is a very beautiful place set apart for the progress of children. It is imperative, and I hope that this is going to be made a place like that, where a scheme can be implemented at as little cost as possible where the children can grow their own food. Even now, in the City, they are under very difficult circumstances but manage to grow their own vegetables in Pantheon Road, and Tondiarpet. Wherever possible, the boys must have a wide range of projects and works that would suit them, and interest them.

“ I would like to congratulate the Government, Mr. President, on the provision made for increased Police accommodation in Salem. Salem Police have had a very difficult time, not that the Police elsewhere have not also had difficult times, but the Salem Police are placed in specially trying circumstances and are very badly accommodated. I would therefore like to congratulate the Government for providing extra Police accommodation in Suramangalam and for providing about half a lakh of rupees expenditure for this. I would like however to mention that this half a lakh is going to be spent only on temporary accommodation. I think when the Prohibition scheme is properly implemented, crime is going to be less. Thus it may be that the Government hope that this temporary accommodation would be allowed to lapse. But I trust that this matter will be judged fairly by the department in question and proper accommodation will be built in future for all those working at high tension.

[Mrs. M. Hensman]

[21st November 1949]

“ Then there is the Tungabhadra Camp Jail Project which is talked over in the many Provinces concerned with the project. I may tell that the jail has been treated very badly up to now. It has no electrification and I am glad that half a lakh has been provided in the supplementary budget for the electrification of this project. It makes the work of all the people, the staff and the Officers very much more difficult if there is no proper light in a jail.

“ There is one department, which seems to be overstaffed and that is in regard to the Co-operative Societies—let me not say overstaffed, because I am sure each member of staff is needed—and perhaps I should say that the allowances made for wages and salaries in Co-operative Societies should be the same as those allowed for everybody in every other department and vice versa. I feel that the other departments should also be treated as generously as this department. If the needs of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies is unusually heavy, there are many other departments whose needs are also equally heavy. No doubt, the Co-operative Societies have been doing splendid work and their work has been increasing, but I may mention that the same is the case with other departments also—Education, Highways, Buildings, etc. So I trust that a comparatively generous allowance will be made for all departments in the next budget.

“ Now coming to the Veterinary Department, Sir, I must say that this Department has been treated very badly in the past. Sir, the Veterinary Hospital here, of which I have the honour to be a Visitor, has been improved very greatly in the last three years, and the College Department and other departments concerning the treatment and care of animals have been gradually developing. Cattle in this Province are very badly treated and not properly provided for. I plead with the Hon. Ministers concerned to set apart in the coming budget a very substantial grant for the improvement of cattle and other animals in this Province. We may be going to bring a Bill against slaughter of cattle, Sir, but are we now realising the value of our cattle wealth? I think that all facilities for cattle welfare work must be given to the Veterinary Department and trust that a big amount will be provided for in the budget that will be submitted in March 1950. The same applies to the case of other draught animals and horses, goats, etc.

“ Public Health, Sir, has been treated very sturdily. Here, I would suggest one point with regard to the deputation of students abroad. This question of deputation of students for the study of Public Health abroad should be a matter of priority consideration with the Minister for Finance. I know there is devaluation and the dollar problem. Sir, but the value to our country of doctors deputed abroad for Public Health is not to be counted in rupees, annas and pies. I trust that even if we go short in something else, students will be sent abroad in Public Health. The Government may give increased facilities to this object. We can institute

21st November 1949] [Mrs. M. Hensman]

scholarships or arrange exchange appointment for some of these students. I request the Minister for Finance to allot in his budget for March 1950 a large grant, much larger than in the past for deputation of students abroad in connexion with Public Health.

"My friend who has spoken before me, has dealt with the question of education. I will only request the Hon. Minister for Education, who has been kind enough to be present here, for this debate to make the grants for colleges that have already had completed schemes. I think it is imperative to sanction the necessary grants without delay. There is one Men's College for men to which a grant of over a lakh and quarter of rupees is due for the year 1948. There is a Women's College which has got to pay bills for Rs. 35,000 for its science and other laboratories apparatus at once. I do not know whether the poor Principal will be put into jail if not able to pay this amount. If we are to wait for grants from the Centre, it is going to be impossible to meet the demands of these Colleges. I feel, Sir, that grants when the necessary details are supplied and when they are applied for, should be automatically handed over to the parties concerned after the proper vouchers for the purchase of the scientific apparatus, etc., have been checked. Although the Government may be handicapped in money, education should not be handicapped for want of money and I trust that necessary grants will be made available immediately for the amounts due for 1948-49.

"Lastly, I would like to mention one point with regard to 'Miscellaneous'. My hon. Friend Mrs. Clubwalla has been urging the need for women police and women patrollers, and women police officers. For many, personalities may not matter as much as money. Many may think that this suggestion is merely a luxury. It is a real necessity. This is not a luxury, or not an amenity, for no civic life is possible without law and order. It is perhaps too late now to provide for a grant under this item in this Budget, but I appeal to the Government to provide a big grant in their March budget for these schemes which are not facilities or amenities to the public, but mere necessities for implementing such Bills as Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi put on the statute book and for keeping our towns and cities such as we would like them to be. A budget must meet the views of the people of the Province."

* JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI:—"Mr. President, Sir, this supplementary budget which has now been presented and on which there has been a discussion now, seems to be a budget presented on no principle. We discuss about it as we have no other go. Sir, in any budget, we have got two main features. One is, there is expenditure on items already sanctioned and approved by the Legislature. The second is there are new items on which the sanction of the Legislature has to be taken. The preamble of the supplementary budget says:—"The supplementary statements now presented to the Legislature relate to expenditure on 'new service' schemes already sanctioned in the course of the current year and for which there is no provision in the Budget

[Janab Abdul Latif Farookhi] [21st November 1949]

Estimates for 1949-50 and 'new service' schemes which will be sanctioned after the Legislature has voted the supplementary demands'. We have to note the words 'voted by the Legislature.' Now, Sir, if you actually peruse the supplementary budget—I am sure you would have already perused these demands—you will find there is not one single item for which the Government is waiting for the sanction of the Legislature. Every item has been gone through, scrutinized, examined and sanctioned. They have come to the Legislature simply to cross the T's and dot the I's. They have come for nothing else."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Even the crossing of T's and dotting of I's could have been done by them."

12.30
p.m.

* JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI:—"Of course they could have done that. But they want to tell the world outside that the Legislature has been approached in this regard and its approval has been taken. I would like to ask, Sir, whether in an important matter like this where crores of rupees are involved, there can be such merciless extravagance of public money. Now, Sir, if we take into consideration the supplementary demands, only Rs. 100 per item is being taken and Rs. 16,300 are asked to be sanctioned. It is not known how many crores of rupees will be spent and what the receipts will be. We are only faced with expenditure. The Hon. the Finance Minister has not given us any idea of how many crores of rupees will be spent if these supplementary demands are accepted. I feel that this sort of Budgetary supplementary demands would not have been presented in the Legislature in any country if the Government felt that the Opposition was effective. It is only on account of the inability or helplessness of the Opposition to force its views upon the Government that such Demands are presented. Now, there are 163 items but they run to about 200 items because we have got several sub-items. I feel that many new items of expenditure can be postponed. There is financial stringency. The Government of India are not prepared to give any loan to this Government. They want to curtail the grants. Such being the case, where is the necessity for this Government to go on expending money like water and then simply ask the Legislature to endorse what they do? I do not feel and I do not say that the Ministers are not as much interested in public money as we are. But I feel that they should carefully examine the proposals and address themselves to the question as to what is to be done, when it is to be done and how it is to be done. It is reported—I do not know how far it is correct—that the Government want to defer the execution of the Act with regard to betting on horses. Well, Sir, that may perhaps be a necessity for the Government. If they commit that sin, why not they defer paying the zamindars? Why not they defer the question of preventing people from taking intoxicating drugs? I am certainly in favour of prohibition. But what I say is if they are going to defer one thing, why not they defer other things also? Certain Provinces, composed of Indian

21st November 1949] [Janab Abdul Latif Farookhi]

states, have deferred the question of prohibition. For example, Saurashtra has deferred. If the Government feel that they cannot go on without the money lost on account of the introduction of Prohibition, why should there be this demonstration of preventing people from taking intoxicating drugs, losing several crores of rupees not only in the shape of revenue, but spending more money on employing people to enforce it? Such things can be done away with. Therefore, when you do a thing, you must take into consideration whether you are able to provide finances for that or not. You have to cut your coat according to cloth. There are a number of new schemes into which the Government are entering. For instance, for the Firka Development Scheme they want additional staff with a recurring expenditure of Rs. 1½ lakhs. It is a scheme which to many people appears to be doubtful of success. From the little experience I have had of this scheme, I feel it will be a colossal failure. But Government feel that there must be firka development; they have appointed many officers and already spent some money; and now they want more money for that. How can anybody feel justified in allowing Government to spend public money in this manner?

“ Sir, there is a supplementary demand for an additional Member for the Board of Revenue. Every Congressman in this House and outside, and perhaps throughout the whole of India cried hoarse during the regime of the foreign Government to abolish the Revenue Board saying that they were living upon the money of the people. Now not only has the Revenue Board been retained, but there is an additional Member of the Board. I do not know how their policy has changed after they took up office. I do not understand the necessity for this in the supplementary Budget. If at all there was a necessity, they could have taken the sanction of the Legislature when the annual Budget was presented. At the fag-end of the year when all sorts of expenditure have to be reduced, I cannot understand the reason why an additional Member of the Board of Revenue should be appointed.” (Dr. V. K. John. ‘Hon. Ministers are growing wiser from year to year.’)

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Hon. Members are also growing wiser day by day.”

* JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—“ Now, Sir, I come to item (x) on page 32, viz., the Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry. It is now in partial production. The Government want more staff to be provided for the Mills. We do not know what profit has accrued to the Government on account of the working of the Andhra Paper Mills. The formation of the Andhra Province is in sight. Let us congratulate the Andhras on their success. Therefore, while it is in sight, why not the Government defer that matter and leave it to the Andhra Province instead of providing money in this supplementary Budget? ”

[21st November 1949]

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ For the time being, the Government must be sanctioning money for the Andhra districts also till the Andhra Province can take it over.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The Andhra districts also form part of Madras Province now.”

* JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—“ My hon. Friend, the Finance Minister, is an Andhra and I have very great respect for the Andhras. What I meant was not that they should not be paid any money if they are going to have a separate Province, but there was no necessity to provide for it in this supplementary Budget. If the Andhra Province—God forbid—is not going to take shape until next year, you can provide for it in the annual budget. I do not, for a single moment, grudge paying money for the Andhras. On the contrary, I would plead with the Government for some money to be paid to the Andhras, because they have suffered for a long time. But my submission is that this need not have been included in the supplementary Budget.

“ Sir, on page 30, item (i), you will find there is a provision made for the Government Glass Bangle Factory Centre. Perhaps the Government are very solicitous now about ladies because they want to provide bangles for ladies. (Interruption) They used to ask men ‘Are you wearing bangles?’ (Interruption) This may be perhaps for men like the Hon. Minister who are not courageous enough to own their mistakes. The ability of people must be conceded. Sir, I am taking a very serious view of this bangle factory. The scheme involves a non-recurring expenditure of about a lakh of rupees on building, etc., and a recurring expenditure of about two lakhs of rupees. Then, the Government estimate that after deducting all expenditure, the net profit of the Government will be about 1½ lakhs of rupees. God only knows what the profit will be; they have not worked out; they have no experience of bangles or bangle factories. Therefore, I do not know how this bangle factory is going to work.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Why do you think the Government have no experience of bangles? ”

* JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—“ I do not want to expatiate upon it, Sir. But I shall say they have no experience of bangle factories. It must be left to private enterprise. There is this difference between private enterprise and the Government taking up a particular industry. The Government do not feel that it is their money. Whoever may be the Ministers, whether you, I or anybody else, we are not so mindful of the money that is being spent. It is an unnatural thing if there are exceptions. If I am the owner of a factory and if I spend money on that factory, I am always looking to my loss or profits; but if the Government take up a factory, they squander the people's money and do not take much care for the running of the factory. If there is a loss to the

21st November 1949] [Janab Abdul Latif Farookhi]

Government, they approach the Legislature and ask for more money for running it. Therefore, provision for this bangle factory, even if it is a necessity, should not come up in a supplementary budget. The Government must consider their plans, have their estimates and come before the Legislature in the month of March and say, 'Well, these are the new services on which we want to embark. If you are satisfied that these services should be run, give us sanction.' That is the procedure which is more reasonable and parliamentary. But now at the fag-end of the year, when we are going to have the whole expenditure closed, for Government to come with estimates and ask the Legislature to sanction amounts is not just either to the Legislature or to the public whose money is going to be spent.

" I shall now come to political sufferers. The Government want more staff for the distribution of lands to political sufferers. Whether I am a political sufferer or not, I do not feel that anybody can disrespect the political sufferers, whoever they may be. Even with communists, if they are really political sufferers, I will sympathize. I will not sympathize with their views, ideas or actions but I will sympathize with them for their political sufferings. The Government want more money for engaging additional staff for the grant of lands to political sufferers. But the Government, to say the least, are not sincere in this effort. They are not concerned with political sufferers, they are concerned with people of their own Party. They want to distribute prizes, give mans and take away one jagir or one zamindari and give it to somebody else. As a matter of fact, the past and the present Revenue Ministers on the floor of the Assembly and this House in unmistakable language said that lands would be given to but political sufferers, notwithstanding their present political affiliations; the Government misled the people into believing that lands would be given to political sufferers; irrespective of their present political affiliations, as they have issued secret instructions to the different Collectors that lands should not be given to political sufferers who are not Congressmen at present or Socialists.

" The socialists are the enemies of the present Government. They want to stand against the Congress candidates in elections and drive them out of office. Preparations are afoot in this direction. Such being the case, I cannot understand the reason why the Government should say that among socialists also there are political sufferers. Perhaps Government are sure that the socialists are going to oust them from office and so dub them also as political sufferers lest they should grow more active to throw the present Government out of office. I know that definite instructions have been issued to the Collectors that lands should be given only to congressmen who continue to be congressmen now and not to those who have now changed over to the Socialist party. Sir, let the Hon. the Minister in charge of assignment of lands to political sufferers contradict my statement, if it is not a fact. On

[Janab Abdul Latif Farookhi] [21st November 1949]

account of these instructions, if I may make a personal reference here, Sir, the lands given to me have been taken away. I have made repeated references to this question but no Hon. Minister has ever come forward with an answer. Is not this business designed to help your own men? Why do you hide your real complexion and take shelter under the sacred name of 'political sufferers'? Again why do you rush with this question? Why not you defer it for consideration at the proper time, that is when the annual Budget is presented before the House? Sir, all this is being done in hot haste and there is absolutely no immediate necessity for making this provision in the supplementary budget.

" Now, Sir, no supplementary budget could or would have been presented in this manner in any legislature, anywhere. It is possible only here. I ask, could such a thing have ever been possible here, if only the Ministers had had that fear hovering over them that the Opposition was strong enough to take their place in the Cabinet, if perchance they should give up office. No, they consider the Opposition's remarks as a cry in the wilderness. They are satisfied with the present position—and feel happy about it—that they can themselves do everything and finally say 'the Legislature has voted the Demands'.

" I do not want to take any more of the time of the House but would refer to one question and be done with it. The question is that of 'electricity'. Sir, large sums of money have been provided for electric projects. Of course electricity is a necessity. But I am reminded of an old proverb which says 'There is darkness beneath the lamp'. This proverb, although electricity falsified it, appears to be in a measure true in certain places. Sir, there is no electricity at a place which is only fifteen miles away from the city. There is a place called Ganapatipuram in Tambaram where there is a generator and where people go without electricity. The people in that area have begun to clamour for electricity and they say 'because some Assistant Secretaries to Government and other high officials are put up in West Tambaram, electricity has gone there, because the relatives of some of the high officials of Government are living in East Tambaram, it went there also but we are not even two furlongs away from that place and yet we are denied the benefit'. Sir, this kind of criticism is levelled against the Government and I want to put the Ministers on their guard lest they should grow more unpopular. I would advise them not to allow themselves to be attacked like this. Let not people think that Ministers exist to provide amenities for their relatives and followers only. In fact, I know that most of our Ministers are gentlemen who do not have such ideas but let not their acts, however unwittingly done, create this sort of feeling among the public that Government are for their own men and not for the public at large.

" Finally, Sir, I feel that Government should at least hereafter make it a point not to approach the House for grants at the

21st November 1949] [Janab Abdul Latif Farookhi]

tag end of the year but to do so at the proper time. For we must at least have an idea of how many crores of rupees have been spent so far, how much more will be spent and how much we will have to sanction. Sir, that is the responsibility of the legislature and that is a right which I would urge the Government to respect. I thank you, Sir, for having allowed me more time than was stipulated by you."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN:—" Mr. President, Sir, as we have very little time at our disposal for the discussion of the Supplementary Grants, I shall confine myself only to two subjects, namely, agriculture and food. Sir, we are still passing through partial starvation and mal-nutrition. That a healthy and stable agriculture is essential for the welfare of the country at large and also of the provinces in particular is an old saying. But unfortunately, today the small peasant-farmer is completely at the mercy of the elemental forces of nature. Agriculture has become merely a gamble in our country as the monsoon on which agriculture depends is also quick and erratic in its nature. The farming methods in this country and in this province in particular are still ante-deluvian and are on an extremely low level. Harvests are equally extremely unstable and, fluctuating from season to season, from year to year. For ages, the land has been ruthlessly exploited and little or nothing has been put back on it. Most of the agricultural lands here, as elsewhere, have been sorely impoverished by centuries of erosion resulting from unwise cultivation. It is a pity that more than three-fourths of the land all over India as well as of this Province have been eroded and corroded by agencies like water and wind. Millions of acres have been damaged and millions of acres have been virtually exhausted or permanently ruined as a result of erosion by wind and water. More than three-fourths of the available crop lands, as I have said, have been very much ruined. Unless there is effective remedial action within the next few years at least, it will be a hopeless task. About 167 million acres in India, once good crop land, have been almost ruined by erosion for any further practical cultivation. This devastating process has been long at work on millions of acres and hence the urgency and importance of this problem. Our farmers should not only learn the best methods of soil conservation but they should apply them to the land. Government should make soil study and make the information available to all the farmers. Government should study what sort of price-levels would provide adequate incentive to production and supply the agricultural needs of the farmer, e.g., machinery, fertilisers, insecticides, etc. Credit systems will have to be worked out to enable the backward farmers to become adequately equipped for efficient food production. I am not, however, for the establishment of monster mechanical farms everywhere as you find in western countries. Ignorance is the arch enemy of the farmer. The provision for agricultural education is very limited in our province. Therefore, I plead, that every district should have an agricultural

[Dr. Syed Tajuddin] [21st November 1949]

college. Abundant advice to all the farmers in all the aspects of agriculture should be made available. Every university should have a Chair of Agriculture established. All our universities should give recognition to agriculture as a subject for graduation. The province should be studded with well-equipped centres of teaching. Each centre, besides giving systematic instruction to regular students, should organize lectures to farmers in the neighbourhood. They should conduct classes and demonstrations in dairying, horticulture, particularly in manual processes. Such a definite policy will bring the teaching of agricultural science within the reach of those actually working on the land. Dairy schools should be started all over. A comprehensive system of agricultural education and research in numerous directions should be promoted. New light on the breeding and feeding of livestock should be thrown and new process of dealing with soils and the maintenance of fertility should be effected. Well-equipped farm institutes, as a part of future educational schemes should be set up forthwith."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I have to inform the hon. Member that we are discussing the Supplementary Demands. I would like to know if he has got anything to say on the subject before the House."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" I want to place these particulars before Government to help them in their food policy. . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" At the time of the annual Budget, the hon. Member may give his views on such subjects. But now we are discussing the supplementary budget."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" I wanted to place certain points before hon. Members. That is all. I have nothing more to say."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Mr. President, Sir, I regret to say that this is no budget at all. After the Hon. Mr. Gopala Reddi became the Minister for Finance, Sir, I have seen a progressive attempt to present the budget at the end of the year and not in the beginning. Since last year, we have had a budget for the commitments of the past year and not for the present. Now, Sir, what is presented in this budget is just an intimation that the supplementary budget will be presented in March 1950, when we shall be asked to sanction an expenditure already incurred to the tune of many crores. Last year the Finance Minister made that attempt and in the Lower House he was able to have his budget passed for the previous year. Sir, this is a very bad way of presenting a budget. In the introductory memorandum he says—

‘ Prior to the 1st April 1937, supplementary demands had to be presented to the Legislature when—

(1) the amount voted in the budget of a grant was found to be insufficient for the purposes of the year ; or

(2) a need arose for expenditure upon some ‘ new service ’ not contemplated in the budget.’

21st November 1949] [Dr. V. K. John]

“ In respect of expenditure of the latter class, the practice was to present a demand for a token sum of Rs. 100 if it was found possible to meet the balance of the expenditure by reappropriation from savings within the grant.

“ If you turn page after page you find demand for a new service and a demand for a token grant of Rs. 100. The Introductory Memorandum itself, rules of commonsense, the rules of finance and the rules of Legislature, all lay down that you must go for supplementary grants after giving detailed figures for expenditure when you have to spend something more than the grant already made. Now, Sir, on every page of the report it is stated that as the service is a ‘ new service ’ a token provision of Rs. 100 is made in the supplementary budget, the actual expenditure being met from the savings within the current financial year, if any, or by obtaining a supplementary grant from the Legislature in March 1950. I am sure, Sir, in every case you are going to spend crores of rupees and come before the parliament in March 1950 with a supplementary budget and say, ‘ We have spent huge sums without grants, but please sanction them ’. It is going to be an accomplished fact and you have no escape out of it. I say, Sir, this is showing very scant courtesy to the legislature. It is irregular and illegal in the extreme. 1 p.m.

“ Sir, why could not they estimate the money required for these new services instead of asking for a token grant of Rs. 100. The reason, Sir, is the Government do not know the figures. We have found their budgets always wide off the mark. Their estimates of income and expenditure have never been correct. At any rate they were very wide off the mark, not by thousands, not by lakhs but by crores. That means, Sir, that the Finance Department of this Government has neither grip nor grasp. I say and take full responsibility for that, that considering all the circumstances and the fact that expenditure has increased by crores after they took charge and the fact that their figures are wide off the mark, the Finance Department is the worst managed department of the present Government of Madras. There is no doubt about it.

“ This supplementary Demand is defective in three omissions. And what are the omissions? We had a cyclone in Andhra Desa. We have decided to spend something to relieve the distress in that area. Is there anything provided for this in the budget which covers so many pages? The cyclone occurred before this was printed. Government propose to spend substantial sums of money to the extent of crores in the cyclone affected area and that too immediately and within the current financial year. Should they not include something in the budget and present it to this House. This is one major omission, in this supplementary budget. If this had been done we would have details time to discuss how much we are going to spend and what is the estimate of expenditure to be met under cyclone relief.

[Dr. V. K. John] [21st November 1949]

“ Another omission is this. The other day, the Hon. the Minister for Revenue said that they were going to pay the zamindars in cash, and would not collect a single pie from the tenant, however much they may be benefited and whatever be the time they have occupied the lands. Sir, you took the view that nothing should be collected from the tenants. I took the view that something ought to be collected. Now the point is this. I know very well that it is no good for politicians to offend the tenants who are influential. They are not going to collect anything from the ryots in this Province. It was made clear in this House as well as in the floor of the Assembly that money was going to be paid in cash. Is the statement made by a responsible Minister to be taken at its face value or is it the idea that no money is going to be paid till the end of the current financial year and so no supplementary grant need be asked? I say, the expectation of the zamindars is and the expectation of the Government too is, that according to the promise made by the Government, cash would be paid down, at least a portion of money due, to the zamindars during the financial year. Where is the provision for this in this budget? Is the Revenue Minister going to ask us to consider the expenditure in March 1950 after paying crores of rupees to the zamindars in cash? I say, Sir, this is not the way to treat the House to which he must come for supplementary grants. Now, Sir, this is a sad omission.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ It is only a proposal to pay”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ If that is so, let us know, let the zamindars know that they are not going to get anything before March 1950. I leave it at that, Sir.

“ There is another, more important thing now, which is as serious as the previous omission. The third omission is, there is no provision for the Grow More Food Campaign proposed to be carried out in the next two years. Of course, there are a few items in this Demand. But I have read the Government Order, dated 2nd September in respect of the two years' campaign and the expenditure connected with it is very substantial. I do not find any mention made about it in this supplementary budget, stating that we have a Grow More Food Campaign for two years and the money to be spent in the first year and that to be spent in the second year and so on. These are major omissions. Because the Finance Minister thinks, since he has got a majority in this House and a majority in the Assembly that he can present Budgets, not in the beginning of the year but at the close of the financial year. That is how these are being presented. I say, Sir, it is very irregular, illegal and showing scant courtesy to the House before which he has to bring the supplementary estimates for sanction. Then, Sir,

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ I want to know from the President whether it is illegal.”

21st November 1949]

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" It is illegal."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I want a ruling of the President, Sir, whether the supplementary budget is illegal according to the Government of India Act."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Presentation of supplementary demands is not illegal. But the Hon. the Minister has said that the supplementary estimate is presented because it was a new service and the expenditure would be met by reappropriation from savings within the grant, if any, or by obtaining a supplementary grant from the Legislature in March 1950. In no democratic form of Government, can a Finance Minister say ' I want a token grant and I shall obtain a supplementary grant from the Legislature in 1950, at the end of the financial year.' I say, Sir, this is highly irregular, thoroughly illegal. He cannot say that. He himself started saying in his introductory remarks that ' If it was a new demand covered by the grant already made by the House, then I have a token grant of Rs. 100 '. He goes further and says, I do not know the amount that may be required. I have no estimates'."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Hon. the Minister has stated that in respect of ' new service ' the expenditure on which could not be met by reappropriation from savings within the grant, he would come for a supplementary grant from the Legislature in March 1950."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" That is not what is envisaged in the introductory memorandum where instructions are given. Where you have a token grant, you are able to meet the expenditure from the grant already made. When you want something more than what is sanctioned in the beginning of the year or the end of last year, then you have a token grant. You must mention the amount that has to be spent over and above the estimated amount . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" As I understand it the expenditure would be met from the amount already sanctioned. They would do it. If they are not . . ."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" They will obtain the supplementary grant from the Legislature in March 1950 after incurring the expenditure. That is the point. The Government do not know what is the amount required. They know what amount is granted. They want the amount. The Hon. Minister will say ' this cannot be covered by what is granted. Something more is required ' and then he must ask for sanction. I want to make it clear that they cannot ask for a token grant now, incur the expenditure and obtain the sanction in March 1950. This they cannot do . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member need not be agitated over it . . ."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I am not agitated. I am speaking quick to save time."

[21st November 1949]

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ How I understand the position is this. They ask you to pronounce an opinion whether the new service is reasonable, admissible, necessary or not. They expect you to express an opinion on that. If you say that this is necessary, the Government may undertake it and try to meet the expenditure from the amount already sanctioned to them. If they want more money they will come to you in March with a supplementary demand for the amount they require. Then, if you think that the amount is unnecessary or heavy and you cannot sanction, you may refuse to sanction the expenditure.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ The Government accept that these are ‘ new service.’ When the Government come forward with new services, they must have made up their minds. They must know what a particular new service is, what is the anticipated expenditure for it, is it to be covered by grant already made, or is it not to be covered. Suppose, Sir, there is a ‘ new service ’ on which they spend a crore of rupees not covered by original sanction. They come to the House and say, ‘ Well, there is the “ new service.” We have spent one crore of rupees. We want sanction for this because a token of Rs. 100 was provided.’ I say this is entirely wrong, illegal. Let them consult any legal pandit, any expert, any man who knows anything about finance. It is thoroughly illegal. If it is covered by original grant, token grant is enough. We are saying, ‘ You incur the new expenditure that is covered by the original sanction, but when you come forward and say we do not know whether it will be covered and so we are asking you for a new grant, and a supplementary estimate will be presented in March 1950, I say, Sir, they are wrong. They are not fair to the House and they are doing an injustice. Why are they so doing? They do not know their own mind. They have no estimates and always their estimates are far wide of the mark. I do not think in any other province of this country their estimates are so wide of the mark and in crores of rupees. Last year it was four crores.

1-15 P.m. “ Now, Sir, I want to make one suggestion. The Government must cut down the expenditure. Before the Congress took power our average expenditure was Rs. 40 crores.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Before the war it was about Rs. 16 crores.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ During the war it came to Rs. 40 crores. Then when the Congress took power the expenditure has increased to 57 crores, a jump of Rs. 17 crores. Why is this? If the Finance Minister has got the figures, let him tell us how much of this 17 crores is due merely to the pay of the officers newly appointed. Why are they spending all this money? Because they have created new offices. The Retrenchment and Re-organization Committee went into this matter in 1948 and made a report, but no final decision has been reached by the Government. Sir, I am glad that the Ex-Premier is now here and I hope he will correct me if I am wrong in what I am going to say. I am told that before he gave up office, he made it a point that there should be retrenchment in every

21st November 1949]

[Dr. V. K. John]

department of at least 12½ per cent. Has there been any retrenchment now? It is no credit to the Finance Department that they are spending 17 crores more than what they were spending in 1945-46. Why are they spending this money? What have they done? Take food, the most important thing. What have they done for it? It was reported in the papers that the Finance Minister was in his great form when he replied to the debate in the lower House”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ On a point of order, Sir, are we discussing the supplementary demands only or are we having a general discussion of the budget? ”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I am only mentioning what the Government have not done. There is no rule preventing me from speaking about what the Government have not done, in connexion with the supplementary demands. I may point out that the items of expenditure necessary for the progress and prosperity of the country have not been included.”

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—“ I seek your ruling on the point, Sir, whether in speaking on supplementary demands an hon. Member can speak about what the demands do not contain and whether he should not confine himself to the subjects covered by the demands.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I may make a few suggestions, Sir, and say that the supplementary demands have not been properly presented. Any Member can get up and say that such and such a thing ought to have been provided for in the supplementary demands. I think there is no rule which says that we cannot talk about these things.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ At present only supplementary demands are before us for discussion. They are not the general budget proposals. On the general budget discussion, there will be time enough for hon. Members to say that the Government have not done this or that and that they ought to have done this or that. Now, as Mr. Suryanarayana Rao has done, I request the hon. Member to confine his remarks to what the Government propose to do and why they want these supplementary demands for. The hon. Member may express his opinion on them and say that this is right and that is not right, this is good and that is not good and so on. That is what appears to me to be a reasonable discussion. I am not giving a ruling, but that appears to me to be obvious.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ It looks to me equally obvious that if a supplementary demand does not contain an item of expenditure which the Government ought to incur and which they are going to incur, I can talk about it and have a discussion on it.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member is mixing up two things. If the hon. Member has any information that the Government are going to spend money on something which they have not

[Mr. President] [21st November 1949]

included here, I have no objection. But one would like to ask how he got that information. Short of that, the hon. Member cannot go on saying that the Government have not done this or that."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" With regard to the three omissions, first of all in connexion with the cyclone, the Government have said"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If the hon. Member wants my ruling on the point raised, my ruling is that he cannot refer to anything else except what finds a place in the supplementary demands."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I cannot speak on what I do not find in the supplementary demands? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am sorry the hon. Member cannot deal with them here."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Suppose, Sir, I find that there is great distress in the hospitals for want of proper accommodation."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" So far as the cyclone is concerned, we have had a debate on it. Why should the hon. Member again refer to that subject? With regard to a debate on supplementary demands, the question is : the Government want money for particular items ; does the hon. Member agree with them or not? "

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" But if an hon. Member thinks that necessity has arisen for a certain expenditure in the interests of the province and the nation and that that expenditure has not found a place in the supplementary demands, it would be a curtailment of freedom of debate if that Member is not allowed to refer to that point."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is not prevented from raising that point. He may bring forward a regular resolution or adopt some other method. But in a discussion of supplementary demands, I am quite clear that the discussion cannot proceed on matters which are not included in the supplementary demands themselves."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Is it in order, Sir, for a Member to say that the Government have had no correct perspective when they brought forward these supplementary demands? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Suppose the Government have provided for Rs. 100 under Irrigation or Electricity. The hon. Member may say that the Government have no proper idea of the needs and that they should ask for more."

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Sir, the other day I requested you to allow a half-hour debate on the question of the great distress of the patients in hospitals who are lying on the floor without proper accommodation and you said that supplementary demands would soon be coming up before the House and that I could discuss the point then. I do not find a single demand here for provision of more hospitals or more accommodation in hospitals."

21st November 1949]

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Does the hon. Member refer to any ruling I gave? I remember perfectly well that supplementary questions were allowed for a decent amount of time on that particular question. That was why I said I would not allow an half-hour debate. That was the main reason, i.e., supplementary questions went on for a sufficient time.”

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—“ You mentioned, Sir, in regard to the grant of land for political sufferers that it would come up on supplementary demands. It has now come up and we can deal with it.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Then Sir, it is stated under the Excise Demand that in view of the termination of the Customs Union Agreement between the Government of India and French India from 1st April 1949, the Government have to incur an expenditure of Rs. 99,226. I sent in a resolution the other day on this subject. It is in the interests of both parties—both Indians and the French—that these possessions should be merged in the Indian Union. I learn that from Karaikal alone, in the first six months of the year 17,000 tons of rice had been shipped off. I think it is high time the Government took note of the difficulties created by the foreign possessions in South India and the expenditure we are put to. This matter may be taken up with the Government of India.

“ Sir, as you have ruled that I should not speak on what is not found in the budget”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I do not know if you can call it a budget. They are only demands for grants for further expenditure.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ That means it is a supplementary budget.”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ I did not want to interfere, but that should not be taken as a matter of right. I am not restricting hon. Members from saying what they want to say, but there should be some limit.”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I want to make one serious suggestion to the Government.”

A HON. MEMBER :—“ What about the other suggestions? Are they not serious? ”

* DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I believe in smiling through life. Whatever suggestions are given to the Government, they are not benefited. I mentioned in the House the other day with great regret but with a smiling face that you can take a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink. These suggestions are made here not in the hope that the Government would accept them or consider them, but because this is the only forum to try the Government before the bar of public opinion where the Government will be judged. These supplementary demands could have been avoided if only the Government had accepted the Retrenchment Committee's

[Dr. V. K. John]

[21st November 1949]

proposals. The Government must bring down the expenditure from 57 crores to 40 crores. They must also bring down the sales-tax which has only increased the cost of living. If they could do that, the Government could avoid the supplementary demands. The Government may ask for grants where they want to step up agricultural and industrial production, to provide more facilities for education and medical relief and for nation-building activities. It is high time that the Government reconsidered the many fads which have cost us crores of rupees. One is prohibition. The other day an ex-Minister said that this present prohibition policy has made women and children drink and that illicit distillation has become a cottage industry. It is high time that the Government reconsidered these matters and appointed a committee to go into them and find out whether their policy is correct because every time any important question is raised, the Finance Minister says he has no money. We have no money for nation-building services while we waste Rs. 20 crores for having illicit distillation. Sir, we are all for prohibition provided it can be successfully enforced.

“ Another thing is the nationalization of the bus services. It was said—

‘ If you wait for five minutes, you get a bus ’

I know from the experience of my own juniors that you have to wait for one hour and you do not get a bus. And you get a rotten bus and you have to pay higher fares. The accounts for 1947-48 and 1948-49 have not been audited and I feel I am right in saying that the Government have lost about Rs. 40 lakhs by nationalization. They could have avoided this wastage.”

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Who said that we have lost forty lakhs? ”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ Because the Government have not published the audited accounts, people who have experience of the matter say that these buses have become rotten and if they are sold they will not fetch even a few lakhs, as against the expenditure of 70 lakhs.

“ Another fad is the provision of one crore of rupees on Khaddar. If the Government would only revise their notions . . . ”

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ The hon. Member can deal with them in the month of March. He is not going to cease to be a Member by that time.”

1-20
p.m. DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ We do not know whether this House will continue to exist till March. The Andhra Province is coming and we are all uncertain about our being here till March. I am not keen on speaking at length. I want to tell them : give up these fads, re-examine them and do not waste crores of rupees ; be a little sensible. I shall at the end make this again clear : do not treat both the Houses with scant courtesy ; do not bring a budget like this which says, ‘ we want a token grant, we will spend crores of rupees and then we will bring in a budget in March ; at the end of the year we will tell you that we have spent moneys for which

21st November 1949]

[Dr. V. K. John]

there was no grant.' This is an awful thing any Finance Department can do. Let them do their job, let them not be sleeping; let us know what figures there are for our expenditure. I hope the Finance Minister—who cannot do these things himself—will ask the department to see that they have the figures and that those figures are given to him and given to us and also to the public, so that we may know how the Government is run. And finally, Sir, I repeat what I said in the beginning—this is not a budget at all."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Then what is the discussion about? "

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" That it is not a budget."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" How long does the Hon. Minister propose to take for his reply? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I do not propose to take more than thirty minutes, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Then we will now adjourn and meet again at 2-30 p.m."

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I wish to tell the House that at my request, an innovation has been made in the proceedings of to-day. The House knows that we have been sitting since the 14th of this month. Except two Bills that we have passed, not much appreciable work has been done and the other House too has not passed any further Bills to provide work for this House. So far as non-official work is concerned, I find there is not much work for more than an hour or two and I thought it was unnecessary to devote one full day to it. All the same, I was anxious to give some time for non-official work during this session and the question arose, how to fit in all these things. So, in consultation with the Leaders of both the Houses and in consultation also with the Leader of the Opposition, I have thought it would be better if to-day we could finish the discussion on the supplemental estimates as well as finish the non-official work. That is why I requested the Members of the Government party not to take part in the discussion on the supplemental estimates but to leave that work mainly to the Members of the Opposition, so that if we finish the non-official work also to-day, the other House may sit from to-morrow onwards and by the 25th they will be finishing some of the urgent Bills which will later come up for discussion here. Otherwise, if we take up the 23rd for non-official work, they will have the 24th for their non-official work and there won't be much business unless they sit for the 25th, 26th and 29th; and we do not also know when the House will have to meet again. So, in order to avoid difficulties to hon. Members of the House, I suggested this arrangement. I am therefore glad that Members of the Government party have taken my suggestion and have not taken part in the discussion on these supplemental estimates. At the same time, I want to make it clear that this should not be a precedent for the future. Discussions on

[Mr. President]

[21st November 1949]

supplementary demands will be for a full day in future, and I do not want to make this a precedent. These are the extraordinary circumstances which forced me to adopt this procedure to-day. I hope hon. Members will understand the spirit underlying this arrangement and I am thankful to them for having co-operated with me to expedite the business of the House."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" When will the Council meet again? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Just wait a minute. The Hon. Finance Minister will now reply to this debate. Afterwards we will take up non-official work, which I am sure we will be able to finish by 5 o'clock. I should like to know from the Leader of the other House when he thinks the other House will be able to finish the work there and when this House should meet again."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" There are six ordinances to be passed in the present session and we also want that the Electricity Bill should be referred to a Select Committee in the other House—I am not quite sure whether it is to be a Joint Select Committee or a Select Committee of the other House alone; whatever it is, we want to sit on the 23rd, 24th and 25th . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think I got notice of the Electricity Bill."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" We want to sit on the 23rd, 24th and 25th and dispose of all these matters. The other Bills including the Panchayat Bill we will take up on the 15th December; in which case this House can agree to sit on the 26th or so, so that the business that will have been transacted in the other House by that time can be approved in this House also."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The Electricity Bill will be going, not to a Joint Select Committee, I suppose? If it is only to a Select Committee of the other House, then it may not be ready now for this House."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO :—" Hon. Bhakthavatsalam says there is to be no Joint Select Committee but only a Select Committee of the Assembly."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" So, it won't come up here; we will therefore have only the Bills relating to the ordinances."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" The opinion on this side of the House is that it will be better to have the sittings of this House on the 28th instead of on the 26th."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" With regard to the suggestion about the 28th, while we can have no objection to it, some of the Ministers, especially the Minister for Land Revenue will be touring the cyclone affected areas, leaving here on the 26th night. It will facilitate our work if we sit on the 26th; there is

21st November 1949] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

one Bill standing in the name of the Revenue Minister, which is one of the six ordinances; so, it will be better if the Council sits on the 26th."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"What have the hon. Members from the mufassal to say?"

SRI C. VEERABHADRA RAO:—"Is it necessary that the Minister for Land Revenue should be here?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The Government Members say that the concerned Minister may not be here; but other Members say he ought to be here."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU:—"The hon. Mr. Madhava Menon may play the card for all."

SRI M. NARAYANA RAO:—"We would like to be present in our places when the Hon. Minister tours our districts."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Is it the sense of the House that the business should be finished and then the Members should go to their places? (After a pause) I take it that the House will meet on the 26th instant."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Sir, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had been very eloquent over this supplementary statement of expenditure. But they took two different lines of attack. One wanted that there should be no demand for grants for further expenditure at all, while the other wanted to know why certain other things were not provided for. Sir, it is a little incongruous that while one speaks for no demands for grants for further expenditure, the other should plead 'why did you not provide for this and provide for that?' The Leader of the Opposition is always very fond of the Finance Department, nay the entire Government. I remember in the last discussion, he said that Government is the only institution which is best mismanaged in the Presidency or some such thing. Now he says that the Finance Department is the worst mismanaged department. He is very liberal in his compliments to the Government and to the departments; but I am sorry we are unable to take any lessons from his homilies or his advices. When the Leader of the Opposition does not know what is being done with regard to the financial procedure or the presentation of the budget, I think he ought to take more lessons from the Finance Department itself before he can say that the Finance Department is the worst managed department. I think my department will certainly allow him . . ."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Whose Finance Department?"

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"The Finance Department of the Government of Madras."

[21st November 1949]

MR. PRESIDENT :—“ Perhaps he is speaking of his own Finance Department.”

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ He is speaking perhaps of his own Home department. Whatever it is, there is no use attacking the Government on broad lines instead of specially saying what has been done or what has not been done which can certainly be made in a general budget discussion. Sir, you have rightly ruled that it is only a demand for grants for further expenditure. This is not a general budget, it is not a supplementary budget, it is not a revised estimate of what we are going to spend in all the departments. The revised estimate will be available only along with the budget in February next; we take eight months' actuals with regard to receipts and expenditure and we prepare a forecast with regard to the current year's expenditure, which will be in the shape of a revised estimate. This is nothing of the sort; this is only a demand for grants for further expenditure. Certain items have been considered by the Government during the course of this year and they have thought they could sanction them with the approval of the House. In most cases, these are schemes which have been approved by the Government, but nothing has been spent so far except that certain emergent appointments had to be made with regard to the Fourth Member of the Board of Revenue, and some other major items. It is also not known how much we are likely to spend in the course of the year, and that is our difficulty. That is why there is a demand for Rs. 100. Had we known how much we should spend in the course of the year, we could certainly have specified the amount and got the approval of the House; but now we are coming before the House for broad criticism on the points mentioned in these notes, so that if necessary we might cancel or defer any of them in the light of the criticisms made. It is not correct to say that we are in a big majority and therefore we can do whatever we like or that what we are doing is not legally valid. According to the strictest letter of the law, under section 81 of the Government of India Act, there is no need for the Finance Minister to come before this House, before the Legislature, with demands for grants for further expenditure, unless we are sure that we are likely to exceed the budget estimate presented and approved last year. The section says—

“ If in respect of any financial year further expenditure from the revenues of the Province becomes necessary over and above the expenditure therefore authorized for that year, the Governor shall cause to be laid before the Chamber or Chambers a supplementary statement showing the estimated amount of that expenditure and the provisions of the preceding sections shall have effect in relation to that statement and that expenditure as they have effect in relation to the annual financial statement and the expenditure mentioned therein.”

2-45
p.m.

“ So, unless we are convinced that we are likely to exceed the demand approved by the Legislature, we need not at all come before the House for the schemes that we are contemplating during the course of the year; but yet we are placing them before the Legislature so that we may know their criticism and we might, if necessary, modify or cancel them according to the criticisms.”

21st November 1949]

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Section 81 says ' supplementary statement showing the estimated amount of that expenditure'. I wish to know whether that has been done."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" In respect of some of them, the entire expenditure will not be incurred in this year."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I wish to know whether in respect of new services, you have an estimate showing the amount of expenditure on them."

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" So far as it is available, it has been given; since we do not know what is likely to be spent in this year, we have taken a token sum of Rs. 100."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" Both these things have been given."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" So it is in accordance with section 81 of the Government of India Act."

SRI B. NARAYANASWAMI NAYUDU :—" But it does not contain details."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" If it is approved, it will form Part I of the Budget and all the details will be given in the general budget that will be presented to the House. Where it cannot be anticipated how much we are likely to spend, we have come up with Rs. 100. There are certain items where we can be more precise. Supposing we appoint a Fourth Member of the Board of Revenue, we know the exact amount and it will be mentioned but when we do not know when a scheme will be implemented or how much will be spent during the course of the year, we only ask for a token sum. Even that, as I said, I need not place before the House; but I am taking the House into confidence according to the assurance given to the House two or three years ago when Mr. Suryanarayana Rao raised the point that from time to time the Government might place new schemes before the House and seek their approval."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" On a point of order, Mr. President. The documents placed in our hands is ' Demands for Grants for further expenditure and detailed supplementary estimates thereof.' This book contains only information how much is required and does not give any details as it purports to do."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" As I told you, Sir, I have placed this before the House pursuant to the undertaking I have given to the House. They relate to specific points raised in the note; it is not a general budget or a revised estimate and we need not go into a general discussion of what is to be done and what is not to be done."

" Criticisms have been raised about the need for new services. Of course, our departments are also anxious that we should not

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

[21st November 1949]

incur large sums of money in the course of the year which have not been approved by the Legislature. But hon. Members know that in the fluid state of affairs obtaining at present, when things are not normal almost in every department due to Post-War problems, due to scarcity of food, essential commodities and other things, things cannot be accurately guessed as to how much the expenditure is likely to be and what the receipts will be. This sort of correct budgeting is not possible in the present fluid state of affairs and you cannot blame the Finance Department for not budgeting correctly. Last year in the Government of India, they presented supplementary demands to the tune of a hundred crores of rupees and as usual there was criticism. But certain items could not be contemplated at the time of the Budget and even individuals, even the Leader of the Opposition, cannot frame a Budget in February for the whole of the next year and stick to it; if he tries, he will know how difficult and almost impossible it is."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" I do not commit that fault of budgeting like that."

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" Budget is a sort of indication of what we are likely to do and it is a collection of our intentions for the future, for the next year. Necessarily, it has to be varied from time to time in the light of experience. Let us take one concrete case, the Agricultural Department. We need some tractors or bulldozers for some farm; we place an order with a firm in America or England; mostly, they do not arrive in time and what we do not spend in the course of the year has to be carried to the next year. So also, is the case with regard to Irrigation. Electricity and other departments. It is very difficult to anticipate what is likely to be spent within the next few months or in the course of the year. There are so many factors, the difficulty of finding personal, shortage of materials and other handicaps and bottlenecks and we cannot correctly estimate how much we are likely to spend.

" The Leader of the Opposition once again said that we have spent seventeen crores more than during the war. We spent only thirty crores then and now it is forty-nine crores. It is a matter for congratulation that in spite of Prohibition, we have been spending large sums of money for essential needs of the people, for Education, for Irrigation, for Public Health, etc. I thought the Leader of the Opposition will have a word of congratulation. I think the Leader of the Opposition will do well to encourage us to get more and spend more money for our people, instead of saying that we used to spend Rs. 30 crores during the war and now we are spending 47 crores and so we are wasting seventeen crores; so that people may benefit with services for the money they are paying to the Government. In everything, we are far behind the advanced countries and it is up to us to spend larger and larger sums of money to better the lot of our people. It is a good thing that we spend more on Electricity, on Irrigation, on Education and

21st November 1949] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

on Public Health and the security services. The point to be considered by the House is : Is or is it not a fact that we are spending more on the Police? In 1937, just before the War, we were spending Rs. 60 lakhs on the Police but last year it became Rs. 6½ crores; Jails accounted for Rs. 28 lakhs but now it comes to Rs. 110 lakhs because the cost of diet of even the C class prisoner has gone up; while formerly it cost only 7 pice, less than 2 annas, it is now 10 annas and there has been a revision of salaries for the warders. Likewise in everything, the expenditure has gone up. We revised the scales of pay of peons and also”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“ I wish to know whether there are more people in jails than we had previously.”

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Perhaps, there are more Prohibition prisoners just now; the jail population is about 20,000 now, whereas it used to range from 16,000 to 17,000. If a separate question is put, we will certainly give the necessary information.

“ As I said it is very difficult to budget for the future correctly. We frame the Budget sometime in February and it is difficult for us to be told that the Government should not incur expenditure on new services. Take the case of procurement, rationing, security services or even educational institutions; a correct estimate of what we should be doing for the future will be difficult. We are opening a number of schools and colleges, some of which have not been contemplated in the Budget. But the demands of the times have been such that some people apply for permission in June and get it in July and start a school. Things, as I said, are a little abnormal and we are still suffering from Post-War confusions and there is no use of blaming the Government for not preparing the Budget properly and for the estimate being wide off the mark.

“ Regarding the observations made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Suryanarayana Rao, I may inform the House that we have very carefully considered whether a Fourth Member for the Board of Revenue is needed or whether a Director of Settlements was needed; the Cabinet Sub-Committee very carefully went into the question and we thought that it was absolutely essential that we should sanction some of those posts. We are not anxious to create more posts when we have instructed heads of departments that there must be a saving of 12½ per cent of expenditure in the departments. Zamindari abolition and rent reduction in estates have created so many problems and these have to be expeditiously met. We should not lag behind as there would be lot of confusion. After passing the Rent Reduction Act, certain steps have to be taken and they could not be taken without the necessary personnel, field staff and secretarial staff and officers. The work has increased abnormally in the Revenue Board and it has to be properly staffed to take such executive action as may be indicated for the abolition of zamindaris. Janab Farookhi Sahib remarked that Congressmen

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [21st November 1949]

3 p.m.

have demanded the abolition of the Board. It is true that people have demanded it. We have gone into the question very carefully. One of the Commissioners is in charge of Commercial Taxes and Prohibition. Even if you abolish the Board, we want senior officers to be head of the Commercial Taxes Department and Prohibition as they cannot be attended to in the Revenue Department here. Likewise also for Land Revenue and Food. Another Commissioner is in charge of zamindari abolition. Of the four, two are on special work, one for zamindari abolition and another for Food work, the other two attend to Commercial Taxes and Land Revenue respectively. As suggested, the Board may be abolished but the number of officers cannot be lessened and the necessary expenditure upon them will have to be incurred by the Government. So, the cheap demand for the abolition of the Board of Revenue is not going to benefit us financially and we certainly want it. We have gone fully into the question and we have appointed the Fourth Member. And likewise, Sir, about the Director of Settlements. Previously, when settlement operations were in force, the settlement was spread over thirty years. If a district is surveyed and settled to-day, then for another thirty years that district would not be touched. So the districts in the Province would get by rotation surveyed and settled by a small survey and settlement party. Now, after the passing of the Rent Reduction Act, all the estates have to be surveyed and settled in a very expeditious manner. Even according to our present programme it would take five to six years before all the estates are surveyed; and then the question of compensation also is linked with the outcome of the survey and settlement. Therefore, Sir, we have to appoint a Director of Settlements.

“Likewise all items of expenditure have been considered very carefully with all our anxiety to cut down expenditure on services. Yet some of these services have become necessary, and the expenditure on them has to be incurred this year itself; and they were not contemplated when the Budget was framed in February last. The suggestions given by hon. Members will be considered when actual expenditure is going to be incurred. To-morrow the supplementary estimates will be discussed in the Assembly and Demand after Demand will be minutely examined, and in view of the criticism thereon, we will consider whether we can incur expenditure or drop it or defer it for the time being.

“There is nothing else that I wish to say except that the hon. Leader of the Opposition gets excited whenever he speaks on Budget matters.”

DR. V. K. JOHN :—“Sir, I have never got excited on anything.”

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“He is an eminent lawyer, and my own feeling is he does not find time to follow the Budget details, procedure, etc. I think where he does not know

21st November 1949] [Sri B. Gopala Reddi]

it is better he is silent, instead of, while playing the role of Leader of the Opposition, on financial matters attacking the Government in whatever they do."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Have I not supported Government several times? "

* THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" On financial matters he has not been very helpful to us. His has not been a healthy criticism about what is being done and what is not being done. (Interruption.) Whatever it is, sometimes empty clouds make much noise. It does not mean a big rain is in the offing; it does not mean a big cyclone is in the offing. They thunder and roll on, and so we do not bother about them. We go on as long as we can go on. It may be the Opposition is not strong enough. Every Government have to function, and sometimes they have to incur expenditure not provided in the Budget; and so it is necessary that they should come forward with supplementary estimates. We had a big discussion in the recent Finance Ministers' Conference about the expenditure incurred without the approval of the legislature. Last year they incurred one hundred crores in the Government of India. This was discussed, and they could not do anything or arrive at any conclusion, except as a sort of wishful thinking that it should be confined to the minimum expenditure possible. In that way it was considered and no definite conclusions were arrived at. Therefore, the House should allow Government to incur some expenditure even though it was not included in the original Budget. If there is widespread discontent about it, Government will seek a vote of confidence according to established parliamentary traditions. That is the convention. If they do not get it, they will resign. I hope we will respect that convention here also."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" The House will now take up non-official business."

III.—NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

THE MADRAS WAKF BILL, 1947 (L.C. BILL NO. 3 OF 1947).

* JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Mr. President, Sir, before moving my motion I would like to raise a point of order about the amendment tabled by Mr. K. T. M. Ahamed Ibrahim."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" That will come in later. You may make your motion. It may be, Mr. Ibrahim may not move his amendment at all. So, you may move your motion and if Mr. Ibrahim moves his amendment, you may raise your point of order, if any."

JANAB ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI :—" Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that the Madras Wakf Bill, 1947 (L.C. Bill No. 3 of 1947), be referred to a Select Committee. Sir, for the present I do not want to go into the details of the Bill. You will remember, Sir, when I introduced this Bill, the hon. the Leader of the House,